

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           The present invention is directed to a control  
system for a photolithographic integrated circuit  
manufacturing process. The control system incorporates a  
visual gating device in which a series of nests are  
provided. A barcode reader may be provided in  
10       conjunction with some of the nests. In operation, a  
human operator advances wafer lot boxes through the nest  
positions in accordance with a series of displays which  
are controlled by the control system. The barcode reader  
associated with each nest reads a barcode label on the  
15       wafer lot box contained within the nest to determine the  
lot number corresponding to the lot box. This lot number  
is then used by the control system to obtain setup  
parameters for the various photolithographic  
20       manufacturing process operations.

HP306a  
August 22, 2000